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problems which arise during the time that the patient is under treatment, a solution of which materially encourages the patient to continue to feel confident in coming to the clinic for treatment. Here, the efforts of a small clinic can undoubtedly surpass anything that can be done in the way of assistance by the rather more impersonal handling which inevitably characterizes a large venereal diseases clinic.

### Deficiencies of a small clinic and suggested remedies

I now come to the other side of the question, namely ways in which the small clinic is likely to be deficient. The most important improvement is that beds should be provided for the treatment of patients attending the clinic whose condition needs in-patient treatment. Without beds no clinic can do really good work; and at the present time the lack of them is the great liability which the small clinic has to face. Every kind of pressure should be put on the authorities concerned to insist that this is a minimum demand and an urgent necessity.

Two other suggestions that I would make are the following. First, that a visiting venereologist of experience and tact should visit outlying clinics and consult with the Medical Officer on points in which the service is falling short. No man who is doing really good work would resent this. It would be an encouragement to him to do better work, and he would be able to consult with the visitor on difficult cases, getting advice and help with such procedures as urethroscopy and other manipulations with which he may be finding difficulty. Secondly, a regular bulletin of procedure and advances in technique could be issued to all clinics. This would ensure that all recent advances would be available to the Medical Officer, who would look forward to its arrival and would be most grateful for the help he would obtain from it. The Ministry of Health has issued such bulletins from time to time, which have been of the greatest help, but their appearance is spasmodic and not nearly comprehensive enough.

### Conclusions

I am sure that I speak for many in a similar position to myself, when I say that I have enjoyed my short experience of this work much more than I had anticipated. I feel that there is scope for the highest work to be done in these small clinics by keen men who are interested in social service, and that there is not the slightest need or reason for us to be regarded as backward and awkward members of a great family.

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## REVIEWS OF BOOKS

*Modern Clinical Syphilology: Diagnosis, Treatment, Case Study.* By John H. Stokes, M.D., Herman Beerman, M.D. and Norman Reeh Ingraham (Jun.), M.D. 1,332+7 pp., 911 illustrations and text figures. W. B. Saunders, London, 3rd edition, 1944. Price 50s.

In a review of the second edition of this work, published in 1934 with Stokes as author, I wrote as follows: "The author of this work requires no introduction to European syphilologists. The first edition of the work under review, published in 1926, besides his numerous contributions to the literature have acquired for him a reputation as a determined seeker after truth, with an almost unlimited capacity for taking pains and a great ambition to raise the practice of syphilology to the same high standard of excellence which his own has reached. A study of *Modern Clinical Syphilology* gives one the impression that its author determined to omit nothing that might by any chance be useful to any of his readers in his diagnosis and treatment of any case of syphilis in whatever part of the body the disease happened to be located. Further that his readers should understand the pathological processes at work and the mode of action of the several agencies at his disposal for the cure of the condition." *Mutatis mutandis* in respect of authors, this statement may well be applied to the third edition, the authors of which must be well known to syphilologists in Great Britain; if they were not the modest people we know them to be, they might well have supplied an alternative title of their great work, "Enquire Within Upon Everything Syphilitic".

The space which can be allotted to this review is far too small to enable one to do justice to such an important work, and one must be content with a sketch of its main features and only a very short commentary. The first thirty-three pages deal with the bacteriology and pathology

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of and questions of immunity in syphilis; they contain some excellent photomicrographs of *Spirochaeta pallida* under the electron microscope, with a magnification of 14,000, which suggest that Balfour (in 1911) was not far out in his description of granule shedding by *S. pallida*, or Meirowski (in 1925) in his description of buds on this organism. The "Clinical Approach to Syphilis", occupying the next eighteen pages, deals adequately with the very important process of clinical examination, and is followed by a chapter on identification of *S. pallida*. After this come sixty pages on serum and spinal fluid tests and then sixty-five on "The Fundamental Principles of Treatment", with a careful discussion on the question of "cure" of syphilis. In the following ninety pages are described in detail first the heavy metals and the iodides and then the arsenical remedies for syphilis; penicillin is discussed in the last chapter, which gives fully what was known about this remedy in August 1944. The following chapter, of about eighty pages, on "Technical Methods and Considerations of Diagnosis and Treatment" goes carefully into the handling of equipment, choice and care of needles and so forth, with some very valuable advice; it ends with descriptions of malarial and other forms of pyretotherapy and a discussion of their respective merits. The next eighty pages are on side-effects of treatment and their prevention and treatment. This chapter is followed by one entitled "Treatment Planning, Latent Syphilis and Other Collateral Aspects and Special Problems", which deals with a number of subjects that could not well be discussed in other chapters, and also attempts to link up the principles of treatment of syphilis in all its forms. The foregoing matter occupies nearly 500 pages and is followed by nearly 600 pages of excellent matter, profusely illustrated, on the detailed diagnosis and treatment of syphilis in its respective stages and manifestations. This section alone makes the book invaluable; it should arouse in its readers the keenest admiration for the authors' perseverance and their determination to neglect no device by which to convey their immense knowledge of the subject to others. With equal care, in the next hundred pages the authors deal with familial and prenatal syphilis, and after a short chapter with some excellent illustrations on interesting cases, there come sixty pages on the public health aspects of syphilis.

Most of this review has necessarily been devoted to a description of the lay-out and main features of this book for the benefit of new readers—those who own previous editions need only an intimation that another is available—and there is little space left for criticism. Fortunately there is little to criticise, and the intelligent reader can be safely left to discover it for himself—for the practitioner who regards any text-book as his "bible", reading only conclusions and no evidence, there is no hope. I will mention only a very few points. The description of the focusing of the dark-ground condenser, on p. 54, requires revision; such a condenser cannot be focused until the specimen is on the stage. Neither Riehl nor Schereschewsky (p. 59) first demonstrated the practicability of storing and transporting *S. pallida* in capillary tubes. The present reviewer used the method as a matter of routine from 1909 onwards and described it in a circular issued by the Local Government Board with the Venereal Diseases Regulations, in 1916. Many will disagree with the advice on p. 271 (Fig. 100, 12) to reduce the maximum dosage of arsenical and heavy metal remedies when both are given concurrently; the boggy of synergistic toxicity in this regard seems to die very hard in some parts of the world. The statement on p. 164, that "The question of simultaneity as compared with alternation of administration seems in process of decision at this writing in favor of alternation", does not tally with the evidence, in particular with that of Eagle, who, in an article detailing the results of treatment in 86 clinics of 4,823 patients by a shortened method based on the laboratory work of himself and Hogan, stated in 1944 that the results in cases treated without concurrent bismuth were "uniformly poor . . . regardless of dosage". I prophesy that before long our American colleagues will "come clean" with an admission that, after all, the concurrent method is the better.

L. W. H.

*The Venereal Diseases.* By James Marshall, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. 339 pp., illustrated. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London, 1944. Price 21s.

The campaign against the venereal diseases, the greater incidence of these infections in recent years and the developments in their treatment have resulted in a demand for knowledge both inside and outside the medical profession. As Marshall says in his Introduction, "Even if the practitioner is not prepared to treat these diseases, he should certainly be able to make an accurate diagnosis and answer his patients' questions about probable length of treatment and prognosis". This book fulfils these requirements and gives instruction of an elementary but adequate type; it should therefore prove to be of considerable value to practitioners and students.

The author has had considerable experience of venereal diseases work while in charge of large army commands in the war years and is well fitted to present this review of the present position of the subject. The text is written without regard to the traditional approach and is the better for this freer consideration of the problems; it is supported by a mass of good photographs, and many important points (such as the good and faulty ampoules of N.A.B. (nearsphenamine)) are stressed by photographs, many of them in colour; it is unfortunate that a large number of the black and white photographs lack sufficient contrast to portray the lesions to full advantage.

Early lesions of syphilis are well described and amply illustrated. The late stages of the disease receive but sketchy mention; in a book of this size the policy may be justified since full descriptions can be obtained in suitable books of reference. Treatment of syphilis is outlined in accordance with generally accepted views, but the newer methods are briefly described although suitable